

Council on Postsecondary Education
May 20, 2002

Executive Summary

2. Are more students enrolling?
3. Are more students advancing through the system?

We have additional performance indicator data to report at this meeting: six-year graduation rates, and community and technical college transfers. The systemwide graduation rate for baccalaureate-seekers has improved significantly, from 36 percent to 44 percent since 1997. The number of students transferring out of the KCTCS and Lexington Community College to public and independent four-year institutions is down, but the number of students transferring in to public institutions is up. Information begins on page 39.

The staff recommends that the council endorse the applied associate transfer agreement patterned after the council's general education transfer agreement and the baccalaureate program transfer frameworks. (For details, see page 45.)

In an action related to transfer, the staff submits for council consideration an applied associate degree transfer agreement. Applied degrees are Associate of Applied Science degrees. They were created decades ago with the expectation that they would be terminal, but times have changed. There now are increasing numbers of students seeking to continue to baccalaureate degrees after receiving AAS degrees from community colleges in fields like nursing and

engineering technology. We and the institutions thought it made sense to expand the transfer framework to accommodate these patterns of behavior.

The applied associate degree transfer agreement is patterned after the other ones already in place. It is supported by the KCTCS, Lexington Community College, and the universities. In addition to the new transfer agreement, the item summarizes the various transfer initiatives being implemented at this time. They will help us meet the transfer goals discussed in the previous item.

The staff recommends that the council propose amendments to the administrative regulation, entitled *13 KAR: 2:090 Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship*, so that the administrative regulation can complete the Legislative Research Commission amendment process and be reviewed following the requirements of KRS Chapter 13A. (For details, see page 49.)

These changes are a result of the actions taken by the 2002 General Assembly. These include expanding KEES award payments to the children of Kentucky's active military personnel when the children attend high school out-of-state, and allowing students to receive a full eight semesters of KEES awards when their major includes graduate-level study before they complete a four-year undergraduate program. The primary example here is pharmacy, which has moved from a baccalaureate program to a doctoral degree, with students entering graduate courses before completing their bachelor's study. The staff also proposes several changes to the regulations to make them more clear and equitable.

A brief report of the activities of the Committee on Equal Opportunities begins on page 63. The major items have to do with the performance of students on the PRAXIS II exam for teacher certification and other items related to teacher preparation. In addition, the committee heard reports about racial harassment policies on the campuses.

The Committee on Equal Opportunities recommends that the council extend the effective date of the *1997-2002 Kentucky Plan for Equal Opportunities* to July 2004. (For details, see page 67.)

This plan is scheduled to expire in July 2002 but it is clear that work remains to be done. The partnership agreement between Kentucky and the Office for Civil Rights of the U. S. Department of Education expires in December 2002. It is not clear at this point whether the Commonwealth will be released from oversight by the OCR at that time. We have made very good progress but this is the kind of work that is never done.

The staff recommends that the council approve the undergraduate tuition reciprocity agreement between Kentucky and Ohio. (For details, see page 69.)

In May 2001, the council approved a one-year extension of the Kentucky and Ohio undergraduate and graduate tuition reciprocity agreements, with the understanding that representatives from the participating institutions would present revised agreements to you. The parties have prepared an undergraduate agreement and we recommend that it be approved. As of

the date of this mailing, a graduate agreement has not been formulated. If one is ready, we shall bring it to the meeting.